

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-19, and 21-24 are currently pending in this application; Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 21 are amended; and Claims 6, 7, 13, and 20 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the Specification was objected to; Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention; Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15-19, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,496) in view of Callele et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,343,516, hereinafter Callele); and Claims 6, 7, 13, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Callele, and further in view of Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,495,979, hereinafter Park).

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figures 7 and 15A are amended, without adding new matter, to correct the informalities identified in the Office Action. Figure 7 is amended to show that the arrow extending from S5 connects to the line preceding S12. Figure 15A is amended to change “FST” to --FTS--.

With respect to the objection to the Specification, the Specification is amended as suggested in the Office Action, and no new matter is added.

In response to the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Claim 12 is amended, without adding new matter, to address the deficiencies identified in the outstanding Office Action. Support for the amendment to Claim 12 is found in the Specification at pages 28 through 32, for example, and no new matter is added.

Claim 1 is amended to include the elements of Claim 7, Claim 8 is amended to depend from Claim 1, Claim 10 is amended to include Claim 13, Claim 14 is amended to depend from Claim 10, Claim 15 is amended to include Claim 20, Claim 21 is amended to depend from Claim 1, and Claim 24 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of Claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments add no new matter.

Addressing now the rejection of Claim 7 (now part of independent Claim 1) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okazawa in view of Callele, and further in view of Park, Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection because the outstanding Office Action fails to provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness by asserting prior art that, no matter how the prior art references are combined, does not teach every limitation of independent Claim 1.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, M.P.E.P. §2143 requires that three criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the references teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim elements.

Amended Claim 1 is directed toward an image forming device management system in which a data communication device is connected to one or a plurality of image forming devices and a central control system is connected to the data communication device via a public switched telephone network and provides a remote maintenance of the one or the plurality of image forming devices through the telephone network and the data communication device. The image forming device management system includes the one or the plurality of image forming devices, the data communication device, and the central control system. Each image forming device includes a power-source on/off control unit

automatically turning on, when a communication request signal sent by the data communication device is received by the image forming device, a supplying of a power from a main power source to the image forming device concerned, and the power-source on/off control unit automatically turning off the supplying of the power from the main power source to the image forming device after a communication between the data communication device and the image forming device ends. The data communication device includes a power-supplied portion selection unit transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal to the image forming device concerned, so that any of the plurality of portions of the image forming device concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being the power-supplied portions. The power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned.

The combination of Okazawa, Callele, and Park do not teach or suggest the claimed

...a powered-supplied portion selection unit transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal to the image forming device concerned, so that any of the plurality of portions of the image forming device concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being the power-supplied portions, the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned.

Applicants agree with the Office Action that the combination of Okazawa and Callete do not disclose the elements of Claim 7 (now part of Claim 1),¹ but further submit that Park does not overcome the recognized deficiencies of Okazawa and Callete.

¹ Office Action of October 7, 2004, pages 13 and 14.

Park only teaches a power-saving control unit 60 (the control unit 20 plus the power switching circuit 40) for a video display device.² In the device taught by Park, one of the normal mode, standby mode, suspend mode, and off mode of the display device is selected in accordance with the H.sync and V.sync signals received from an external main computer.³ Thus, Park only teaches the operating mode selection for the power saving of the display device. There is no teaching in Park of

a powered-supplied portion selection unit transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal to the image forming device concerned, so that any of the plurality of portions of the image forming device concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being the power-supplied portions, the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned.

Furthermore, the Office Action provides no evidentiary support for a motivation to combine Park's operating mode selection of the display device into the image forming devices system of Okazawa and Callele. Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Park with Okazawa and Callele since Park's device is not directed to performing remote diagnostic processing of image forming devices by transmitting a command thereto.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1 (and its dependent Claims 2-5, 8, and 9) patentably distinguish over the combination of Okazawa, Callele, and Park. Claims 10 and 15 are amended to recite elements similar to Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 10 and 15 patentably distinguish over the combination of Okazawa, Callele, and Park, for at least the reasons given for amended Claim 1.

² Park, col. 6, lines 5-17.

³ Park, col. 8, lines 1-4, and table 1.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 24 as unpatentable over the Okazawa in view of Callele, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to Claim 24 overcomes this ground of rejection.

Claim 24 is amended to recite "...transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal from a portion selection unit to the image forming device concerned, so that any of the image forming devices concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being power-supplied portions...."

Okazawa teaches a system provided to cancel the sleep state of the printer when a predetermined printing request command is received.⁴ Okazawa does not teach or suggest "...transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal from a portion selection unit to the image forming device concerned, so that any of the image forming devices concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being power-supplied portions;" Furthermore, Park does not cure this deficiency, for at least the reasons given above for amended Claim 1.

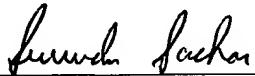
In view of the above noted distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 24 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Okazawa, Callele, and Park.

⁴ Okazawa, Fig. 3.

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 7 and 15A. These sheets, which include Figs. 7, 15A, and 15B, replace the original sheets including Figs. 7, 15A, and 15B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets